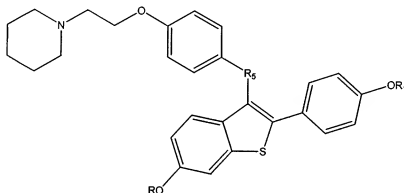


AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 12, 23, 26, 29 and 32 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of treating inhibiting tumor growth of androgen-independent prostate cancer in a mammal in need thereof, the method comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a compound having the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein R and R₁ are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, —COR₂, —COR₃, and R₄,

R₂ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C14 alkyl, C1-C3 chloroalkyl, C1-C3 fluoroalkyl, C5-C7 cycloalkyl, C1-C4 alkoxy, and phenyl,

R₃ is phenyl with at least one substitution selected from the group consisting of C1-C4 alkyl, C1-C4 alkoxy, hydroxy, nitro, chloro, fluoro, trichloromethyl, and trifluoromethyl,

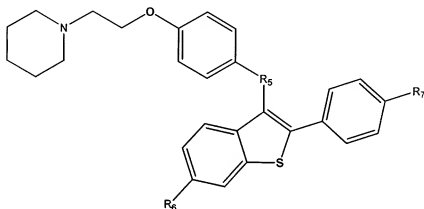
R₄ is selected from the group consisting of C1-C4 alkyl, C5-C7 cycloalkyl, and benzyl, and

R₅ is selected from the group consisting of oxygen and —C=O.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is administered in an effective amount of between about 10 mg and 300 mg per day.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is administered in an effective amount of about 60 mg per day.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is administered in an effective amount of about 180 mg per day.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the compound is administered in an effective amount of about 180 mg per day only after the mammal fails to respond to treatment with the compound at an amount of about 60 mg per day.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising administering to the mammal an estrogen lowering drug in an amount effective to lower the serum level of estradiol in the mammal.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the estrogen lowering drug is administered in an amount effective to lower the serum level of estradiol in the mammal to an amount no greater than about 30 pg/ml.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is administered orally.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein R and R₁ are both hydrogen.
10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein R₅ is oxygen.
11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein R₅ is --C=O .

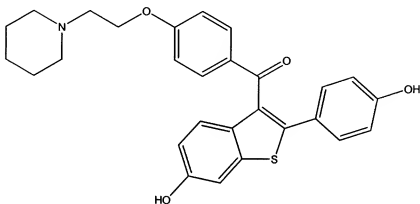
12. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~treating~~ inhibiting tumor growth of androgen-independent prostate cancer in a mammal in need thereof, the method comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a prodrug having the formula



- or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,
wherein R₅ is selected from the group consisting of oxygen and -C=O,
R₆ and R₇ are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy and -OR₈,
R₈ is a hydroxy protecting group, and
at least one of R₆ and R₇ is metabolically processed by the mammal after administration of the prodrug to convert the prodrug into a pharmaceutical compound effective in the treatment of androgen-independent prostate cancer.
13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the compound is administered in an effective amount of between about 10 mg and 300 mg per day.
14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the compound is administered in an effective amount of about 60 mg per day.
15. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the compound is administered in an effective amount of about 180 mg per day.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the compound is administered in an effective amount of about 180 mg per day only after the mammal fails to respond to treatment with the compound at an amount of about 60 mg per day.
17. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising administering to the mammal an estrogen lowering drug in an amount effective to lower the serum level of estradiol in the mammal.
18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the estrogen lowering drug is administered in an amount effective to lower the serum level of estradiol in the mammal to an amount no greater than about 30 pg/ml.
19. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the compound is administered orally.
20. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein R_6 and R_7 are both metabolically processed by the mammal after administration of the prodrug, such that, following the metabolic process, a first hydroxy group remains at the site occupied by R_6 prior to the metabolic process and a second hydroxy group remains at the site occupied by R_7 prior to the metabolic process.
21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 12, wherein R_5 is oxygen.
22. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein R_5 is $-C=O$.

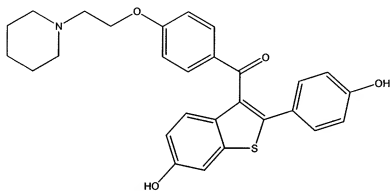
23. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~treating~~ inhibiting tumor growth of androgen-independent prostate cancer in a mammal in need thereof, the method comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a compound having the formula



or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the compound is administered in an effective amount of between about 10 mg and 300 mg per day.
25. (Original) The method of claim 23, further comprising administering to the mammal an estrogen lowering drug in an amount effective to lower the serum level of estradiol in the mammal.

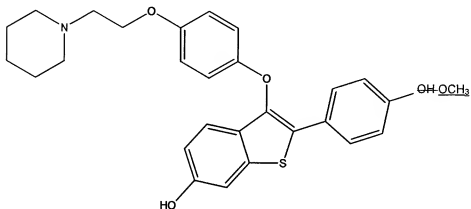
26. (Previously Presented) A method of ~~treating~~ inhibiting tumor growth of androgen-independent prostate cancer in a mammal in need thereof, the method comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a prodrug of a compound of the formula



or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein the compound is administered in an effective amount of between about 10 mg and 300 mg per day.
28. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising administering to the mammal an estrogen lowering drug in an amount effective to lower the serum level of estradiol in the mammal.

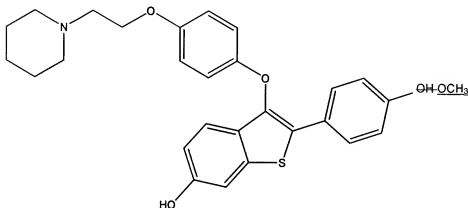
29. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method of treating inhibiting tumor growth of androgen-independent prostate cancer in a mammal in need thereof, the method comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a compound having the formula



or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 29, wherein the compound is administered in an effective amount of between about 10 mg and 300 mg per day.
31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 29, further comprising administering to the mammal an estrogen lowering drug in an amount effective to lower the serum level of estradiol in the mammal.

32. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A method of treating inhibiting tumor growth of androgen-independent prostate cancer in a mammal in need thereof, the method comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a prodrug of a compound of the formula

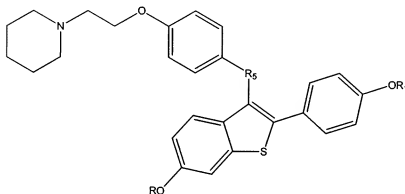


or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 32, wherein the compound is administered in an effective amount of between about 10 mg and 300 mg per day.
34. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 32, further comprising administering to the mammal an estrogen lowering drug in an amount effective to lower the serum level of estradiol in the mammal.

Claims 35-56 (Canceled).

57. (Previously Presented) A method of stabilizing or reducing tumor mass of androgen-independent prostate cancer in a mammal in need thereof, the method comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a compound having the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein R and R₁ are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, —COR₂, —COR₃, and R₄,

R₂ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C14 alkyl, C1-C3 chloroalkyl, C1-C3 fluoroalkyl, C5-C7 cycloalkyl, C1-C4 alkoxy, and phenyl,

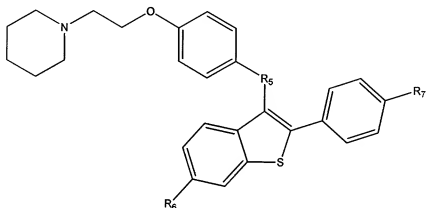
R₃ is phenyl with at least one substitution selected from the group consisting of C1-C4 alkyl, C1-C4 alkoxy, hydroxy, nitro, chloro, fluoro, trichloromethyl, and trifluoromethyl,

R₄ is selected from the group consisting of C1-C4 alkyl, C5-C7 cycloalkyl, and benzyl, and

R₅ is selected from the group consisting of oxygen and —C=O.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, wherein R and R₁ are both hydrogen.
59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57, wherein R₅ is —C=O.

60. (Previously Presented) A method of stabilizing or reducing tumor mass of androgen-independent prostate cancer in a mammal in need thereof, the method comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a prodrug having the formula



- or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,
wherein R₅ is selected from the group consisting of oxygen and --C=O ,
R₆ and R₇ are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy and --OR_8 ,
R₈ is a hydroxy protecting group, and
at least one of R₆ and R₇ is metabolically processed by the mammal after administration of the prodrug to convert the prodrug into a pharmaceutical compound effective in the treatment of androgen-independent prostate cancer.
61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60, wherein R₆ and R₇ are both metabolically processed by the mammal after administration of the prodrug, such that, following the metabolic process, a first hydroxy group remains at the site occupied by R₆ prior to the metabolic process and a second hydroxy group remains at the site occupied by R₇ prior to the metabolic process.
62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60, wherein R₅ is --C=O .